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TOWN HALL

Selectboard suspends programs in town facilities

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Based on Belchertown's COVID-19 numbers as well as requests to use spaces such as the Town Common

or Chestnut Hill Pool, the Selectboard unanimously approved the suspension of all town programming in or at town facilities until Belchertown is in the "yellow" or "green" designation for two weeks.

In a meeting with the Recreation Department Director Kyle Thibeault, Board of Health Chair LeeAnne Connolly and Health Department member Stephen Bell, the group discussed the cause for the suspension.

The board's vote on Jan. 19, shut down use of the Common, the Chestnut Hill Pool and

Town Administrator Gary Brougham told the board there were concerns about use of the commons and outside groups

using the facilities.

"Based on a conversation the (Board of Health) chair had with the (Selectboard) chair, there is interest in making a more signif-

See **SUSPENDS**, page 10 •

BPS meals program expands hours

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

BELCHERTOWN – In order to help make food pick-up more flexible for families, Belchertown Food Services added an evening meal kit pick-up time in addition to its midday pick up time.

Food Services Director Kelly Slattery said as the school district went remote a couple of weeks ago, she thought it made sense to provide another option for a pick up time.

"For people who are working and doing remote learning and with meals at a different times, people weren't able to pick up meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m." Slattery said. "So we added a second distribution on Wednesday evening."

She said there was a clear need in the community for the services, especially during the pandemic.

With a waiver from the United

See **MEALS PROGRAM**, page 4 •



Belchertown Food Services Director Kelly Slattery helps to get a meal order ready last Wednesday evening.

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

BELCHERTOWN

BOS members frustrated with BOH

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Members of the Belchertown Selectboard expressed their confusion and, in some cases, frustration, with the Board of Health due to recent decisions about shutting down programming at or in town facilities.

The Selectboard unanimously approved a suspension of town programming until Belchertown is in the "yellow" or "green" designation, meaning its COVID-19 positivity rates and case numbers drop. The decision made last Tuesday left members asking why the decision was in their hands.

In the meeting, Belchertown Recreation Department Director Kyle Thibeault asked the Selectboard why the policy choice to suspend programming wasn't being made the Board of Health.

"I'm confused, why couldn't the Board of Health call me and say, 'We're in the red, shut down the programs,' as an administrative decision because they grant us the ability to open through the state guidelines," he said. "They run the show with what's been happening."

Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa and members Jim Barry and Nick O'Connor said they shared Thibeault's confusion.

"This is the purview of the Board of Health, and if they aren't going to make a health care decision based on metrics, this is

See **BOS**, page 10 •

STATE



Lampson Brook Farm was recently designated as a historical site by the state.

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Lampson Brook Farm designated historic site

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN –An act providing for the permanent protection and stewardship of the historic Lampson Brook Farm in Belchertown, sponsored by Senator Eric P. Lesser was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker.

Representative Thomas M. Petrolati helped secure the passage of this legislation in the House as one of his final acts before completing his term. This law allows for the permanent

protection of the five separate parcels that make up the approximate 430-acre historic site known as the Lampson Brook Farm.

"Excited to see the local Lampson Brook Farm finally protected under state law through its designation as a historical site," said former Representative Petrolati. "This moment comes as a result of the careful planning and advocacy of many members of the

See **HISTORIC SITE**, page 10 •



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COMMUNITY

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sides differ over decision to clearcut area woods

KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
Correspondent

REGION — Several local residents have raised concerns over the clearcutting of state forests, including Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area in Belchertown, Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area in Hardwick, and others.

“Most Massachusetts citizens believe that the green areas on maps locate beautiful and fully protected public natural areas. They are mistaken,” said Chris Matera of Massachusetts Forest Watch.

“Essentially zero of our state public lands (12% of Massachusetts land area) are permanently and legally protected from commercial extraction.”

The Massachusetts Forest Watch group formed in response to public outrage over “logging and clearcutting” of state forests. Matera said logging, including much clearcutting, is “increasingly occurring on Massachusetts state public forests, drinking watershed, and wildlife protection forests.”

Why they’re important
“State public forests hold Massachusetts’s most important and unfragmented forests and they provide an incredible amount of public good, including carbon capture and storage, clean air and water, flood control, undisturbed wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, spiritual refuge, tourism attraction, among other benefits,” Matera said.

“However, at the exact moment in history that we are coming to a greater realization about the importance of protecting forests, our state public forest treasure is being increasingly targeted for commercial extraction by timber and bio-mass interests.”

At Muddy Brook in Hardwick, the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife said it has completed the first phase of a 500-acre barrens



TURLEY PUBLICATION STAFF PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Not very deep along the trail of the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area, where a narrow stream runs the woods, a clear cut section of land suddenly juts into view. Some residents and wildlife enthusiasts said they worry the area is being over-managed by the state.



wildlife habitat restoration project. Habitat management actions took place on 375 acres in the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area, and 125 acres of the adjacent Muddy Brook Wildlife Conservation Easement, owned by the New England Forestry Foundation in Hardwick.

“We are excited to partner with MassWildlife on an ecological restoration effort which supports multiple rare and common wildlife and plant species,” New England Forestry Foundation Executive Director Bob Perschel said in a statement.

“It’s a good example of how organizations can work together to achieve common conservation goals that benefit people, wildlife, and the diverse forest communities in which they live.”

The greater Muddy Brook Valley

See CUTTING, page 3 •

PUBLIC NOTICE

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2021.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid’s IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2021:

Ashburnham, Belchertown

Treatment Periods

February 1, 2021 – May 30, 2021	May 30, 2021 - Oct 16, 2021	Oct 16, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant Stem	Basal	Dormant Stem
	Cut stubble	

*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
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COMMUNITY

Two Western Mass dinos in running to rep state

DALTON ZBIERSKI
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the race is on to name a state dinosaur. A survey is underway, and two finalists have been selected; both choices are from western Mass., and one has direct ties to South Hadley.

Podokesaurus Holyokensis, one of the two finalists, was discovered in 1910 near Mount Holyoke by geologist and paleontologist Mignon Talbot, a 31-year professor at Mount Holyoke College, where she chaired the Geology and Geography departments.

Talbot named the species in 1911; its full name can be translated to the, “swift-footed lizard of Holyoke.”

Rep. Jack Lewis of the 7th Middlesex District started the project to name a state dinosaur. Rep. Dan Carey of the 2nd Hampshire District is encouraging residents to partake in the selection process, which

also features Anchisaurus Polyzelus, a species discovered in Springfield.

“This is not the most important bill that will get filed this session or that I’ll work on, but we have a lot of official state symbols already, and folks are proud of Massachusetts,” said Carey. This is one more example of not just being proud of Massachusetts but being proud of western Mass.”

Voting information can be located at tinyurl.com/mastatedinosaur. As of Jan. 19, the survey, which closes on Jan. 29, had already received more than 33,000 responses.

By discovering Podokesaurus Holyokensis, Talbot became the first woman to find and describe a dinosaur.

The achievement has been recognized internationally over the past century, although the fossil itself was lost during the Dec. 22, 1917 Williston Hall Fire on the campus of Mount Holyoke College.

Despite the destruction of its fossil, Podokesaurus Holyokensis remains relevant enough to be nominated as Massachusetts’ official dinosaur. Carey wasn’t surprised to learn that the species has earned such popularity.

“I think the reason the project has resonated with so many folks is because of the intrigue that we have with the planet’s history and with dinosaurs in general,” said Carey.

While Anchisaurus Polyzelus is also worthy of the official designation, Carey is optimistic that the species discovered by Talbot will come out on top, as he urged his constituents to vote in its favor.

“I think we can take a little hometown pride in South Hadley to try to get the South Hadley dinosaur over the finish line and try to make that be the one that is filed in the legislation,” said Carey.

More extensively, Carey believes that the process will offer residents of all ages

valuable insight into the state’s legislative process. By introducing a fun subject to excited audiences, new connections can be forged, and information passed along.

“It’s a great introduction to get the conversation started. You can start by talking about how this bill’s going to get filed and move right on to bigger and broader topics and things that are being dealt with state laws,” said Carey. “We work with a lot of parents, families and schools; I’m on Zoom with the third-grade class for Mosier School in South Hadley next week. This will certainly be something that we talk about.”

The poll is open to any resident of the Commonwealth and to those with close ties to Massachusetts. With the help of residents, Massachusetts will become the 13th state with an official dinosaur.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

DA’s office receives anti-violence grant funding

The Northwestern District Attorney’s Office has received \$120,000 as part of \$12.8 million in anti-violence grant funding announced by the Baker-Polito Administration today.

The grant represents the fourth year of funding of the four-year Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security’s S.T.O.P. (Services Training Officers Prosecutors) program.

It has allowed the NWDA’s Domestic Violence Intervention Project to pay trained advocates who are available by cell phone to assist police responding to victims of domestic abuse.

Advocates provide immediate assistance, safety planning and referrals to local services. They are hired by the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition in Franklin County and Valley Human Services at Behavioral Health Network in Hampshire County.

“Having a trained advocate who can respond immediately at the time of the incident and provide support is an important way that we can help survivors and their children,” the NWDA’s Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Projects Mary Kociela said. “It’s also a great way for us to collaborate with our law enforce-

ment and community partners to help protect victims.”

The DVIP is an early intervention, collaborative program that combines the services of 45 police departments, five state police barracks, two dispatch centers, three courts, two victim service providers and our local certified batterer’s intervention program.

It is closely tied to the Domestic Violence High Risk Team Project, with DVIP Advocates making 45% of potential high risk offender referrals to the team. Both projects work together to hold offenders accountable and keep victims safe.

Garage, cars lost in fire on Michael Sears Rd.

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – A fire last Saturday resulted in the loss of a garage and vehicles on Michael Sears Rd.

Belchertown firefighters were called to Michael Sears Rd for a reported garage fire at 11:02 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 23. Upon arrival, firefighters encountered heavy fire conditions in the garage, spreading into the living area of the home.

Firefighters made an aggressive attack of the fire and were able to prevent further spread into the living area of the home. The garage and vehicles were completely destroyed by the fire.

The residents were able to safely exit the home and firefighters were able to safely rescue their cats. The family was relocated due to damage caused by the fire. The fire is believed to have been cause by improperly disposed of ashes.

Palmer Fire Dept. brought a tanker with three firefighters, Bondsville Fire Dept. brought a tanker with two firefighters, and 23 Belchertown firefighters responded to the scene.

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CUTTING • from page 2

represents an important and rare collection of fire-influenced barrens habitat communities in Massachusetts, MassWildlife asserts. According to its section on mass.gov, restoring barrens is “critical to conserving the distinct plants, insects, and animals—including 75 species on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List—that depend on these uncommon habitats.”

According to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife officials, over the past six years, the tree canopy has been thinned to reduce high fuel loads and to stimulate growth of barrens plants.

“The site may look bare following initial restoration work,” said John Scanlon, MassWildlife’s Habitat program manager.

“However, in a relatively short period of time, the cut and burned areas will be covered with sprouting native plants and tree seedlings. The reestablishment of this barrens habitat provides the necessary food, cover, and homes for both common and rare animals and pollinators that require this special type of habitat.”

Matera is having none of it.

He said that’s just another example of “excuses” used by state agencies to cut down state forests and “nonsense meant to confuse the public in order to support bigger bureaucratic budgets and private industry profits.”

Private versus public sources

“There is no need to log our state public forests and many reasons not to,” Matera

said.

“Private lands provide the vast majority of our wood use. Almost always, the best we humans can do for forest ‘health,’ to benefit wildlife, and to help nature in general is to stop pretending such destructive ‘chainsaw medicine’ helps the forest and leave the forest in peace.”

Matera said that a bill will be introduced this year in the Legislature to stop commercial logging on state public lands—the 2021 version of House Bill 897, an act relative to forest protection.

“Contact your representative and ask them to co-sponsor the 2021 version of House Bill 897 when it is introduced this year,” he said. “We need forests, but they do not need us, that is self-evident.”

To learn more, go to maforests.org.

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COMMUNITY

Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 12 to 15

REGION – The Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology will hold the Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 12 through Feb. 15. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes or as long as they wish on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts and they can participate from their backyard or with a Ware River Nature Club group exploring a defined area with a team traveling in separate vehicles. Ware River Nature Club will announce plans for this event soon.

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18-Jun	7
7-Aug	8
26-Sep	6
15-Nov	15
4-Jan	73
23-Feb	55

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Belchertown stays in the ‘red’

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown’s COVID-19 numbers have remained stagnant compared to last week, however still keeping the town at its higher cases since the pandemic crossed the town line. This week there were 55 new cases of COVID-19 in town, bringing the total cases to 566, in the week from Sunday, Jan. 17 to

Saturday, Jan. 23. One person died due to COVID-19 during this weekly period. There have been 17 Belchertown residents who have died due to COVID-19. There were 1,019 tests performed in the last week, making the total tests as of Jan. 19, 2021, 21,631. The Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, Belchertown remained in the “red,” based on the metrics from Jan. 3 to Jan. 16. The case positivity rate is lower than the previous two-week

metrics, going from 6.55% to 5.75%. The rate per 100,000 was slightly lower, going from 48.9 in the last two-week period to 46.3. According to the state, case positivity rate and incident rates are calculate using the 14-day rolling average method. The color metric system categorized Belchertown in the red based off 23 or more cases of COVID-19 and a positivity rate of 5% or higher.

State searches to fill vacant Gaming Commission seat

BOSTON — Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, and State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced a new posting for the appointment to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. The vacant position requires experience in professional gaming, regulatory administration, or gaming industry management. The appointment will be made by a majority vote of the Governor, Attorney General and the Treasurer.

The Commission must be bipartisan, with no more than three members representing the same political party. The application may be downloaded from the website of the Massachusetts Office of the State Treasurer and Receiver General (www.masstreasury.org) or Attorney General (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/board-and-commission-appointments-by-the-attorney-general). All applications must be received no later than Feb. 19. Your completed

application may be subject to the public records law (G.L. c. 66). To be considered for this joint appointment, you may submit a completed application to any one of the three appointing authorities and need not apply more than once. The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create and maintain a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Deval Patrick in Nov. 2011.

Last Wednesday, Cindy Mancuso, Jennifer Finley, Chestnut Hill Community School Principal Tom Ruscio and Belchertown School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst helped to get meal orders into vehicles at the district’s first evening meal kit pick up.

MEALS PROGRAM • from page 1
Stated Department of Agriculture, the food service department now offers weekend breakfast and lunch meals as well. “It’s great not only because we can provide people with food, but it also helps to heat up a meal while balancing busy schedules,” Slattery said. Last Wednesday, 104 people signed

up to do the evening drive by pick up time at Chestnut Hill Community School. Slattery said she encourages people to use the program and is happy to offer the service to people in the community. “It’s super important. It’s free and available for every child,” Slattery said. “Even if you have a child who’s in Swift River and another child who’s not in school yet, they can have

a bag. This is the least we can do, it’s a little piece of normalcy, for us and for the families.” Belchertown School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst said it was the first time she was able to help with the meal distribution last week. “I’m happy the schools are able to provide this service to the community,” she said. “I’m proud of our food service staff.”

COMMUNITY

Belchertown senior received Superintendent award

STAFF REPORT

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School senior Benjamin Schrenzel is many things – a tennis player, “As Schools Match Wits” member and an AP student. He is also this year’s Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence in Belchertown.

On Tuesday, Jan. 5, Superintendent Brian Cameron awarded Schrenzel with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence.

After receiving the award, Schrenzel thanked the high school staff and teachers.

“It means a lot and I’m very thankful for everybody,” he said. “Belchertown offers tremendous opportunities for a lot of students and I’m grateful to be raised in a community like ours.”

Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux wrote Schrenzel’s character.

During his years at Belchertown High School, Schrenzel has impacted the BHS community in far-reaching ways.

“Currently ranked first in his class academically, Ben is a superb student with a work ethic, depth of knowledge, and intellectual curiosity seldom seen in secondary school students,” Vigneux



COURTESY PHOTO

Belchertown High School senior Benjamin Schrenzel is the recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence.

wrote.

Schrenzel is in Advanced Placement classes in Calculus, United States Government, Physics, Biology and English Literature, an honors class in French 5, and a Sociology class.

“Add to this his status as a First-Degree Black Belt in American Kenpo, and one begins to get a broader sense of Ben and his multifarious talents,” Vigneux wrote.

He also serves as a members of the “As Schools Match Wits”

team; a founding member of the Belchertown Student Union for Equity; and an all-league tennis player.

“Ben is equally at home in academic, community-oriented and athletic realms. He is always willing to lend his time and talent and can be counted upon to be intimately involved in nearly every aspect of his school,” Vigneux wrote.

She provided an example where Schrenzel lead a project to aid in allowing visiting educators to participate virtually in their decennial evaluation of Belchertown High School.

“And, he does it all with a down-to-earth and affable demeanor,” Vigneux wrote. “In addition to everything else, Ben is one of the kindest and most modest students Belchertown High School has ever seen.”

She said from his teachers, his administrators, his classmates, his coaches, his mentors, his teammates – the description of Schrenzel “is likely to be similar because of the expertise, enthusiasm, and egalitarianism he brings to every endeavor.”

“In an era that too often mistakenly celebrates the loud and the rude, Ben is a refreshing reminder that the calm and the kind are among our most precious attributes and principles,” Vigneux wrote.

Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, Jan. 28 to Wednesday, Feb. 3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this schedule is subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 28

- 8 a.m. – Selectboard – Jan. 25
- 10 a.m. – Conservation Comm. – Jan. 25
- 12 p.m. – Planning Board – Jan. 26
- 5:30 p.m. – Council on Aging – Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Selectboard – Jan. 25
- 9 p.m. – Conservation Comm. – Jan. 25
- 11 p.m. – Planning Board – Jan. 26

Friday, Jan. 29

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Age and Dementia Survey
- 9:30 a.m. – Community Preservation Comm. – Jan. 19
- 11 a.m. – Agriculture Comm. – Jan. 21
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 8 p.m. – Age and Dementia Survey
- 8:30 p.m. – Community Preservation Comm. – Jan. 19
- 10 p.m. – Agriculture Comm. – Jan. 21

Saturday, Jan. 30

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. – Age and Dementia Survey
- 4:30 p.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 5:30 p.m. – Age and Dementia Survey

Sunday, Jan. 31

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Church
- 8:30 p.m. – Age and Dementia

Survey

Monday, Feb. 1

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Age and Dementia Survey
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard – Channel 191
- 7 p.m. – Board of Health – Channel 192

Tuesday, Feb. 2

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 4:30 p.m. – Curious Giraffe

Wednesday, Feb. 3

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 1 p.m. – Meditation with Lori - Peace
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select “residents,” click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on “watch meetings and events online.” The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

Free interactive workshop to help unemployed

BOSTON – Denise Kaigler, founder of MDK Brand Management, is applying her decades of business acumen, branding experience, and interview expertise to a free interactive virtual workshop called How to Impact & Impress in Minutes. This 90-minute session, designed

to help furloughed and laid-off employees rebuild and rebound, will take place via Zoom on Friday, Jan. 29 from 12 to 1:30 p.m..

Participants will learn how to positively influence the first few critical minutes of a job interview, an online meeting, or an

unexpected encounter with a potential employer and leave a lasting impression. Employers can help former team members move on with confidence by offering this virtual program as support for employees who have

See **WORKSHOP**, page 13 •



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Indoor seed sowing just like the pros do

My first experience with seed sowing involved an egg carton, some potting soil and a few marigold seeds. I must have been about 10 years old. I can still recall how amazed I was that a live plant could grow from what appeared to be a dried up sliver of straw. I can even conjure up the smell of the moistened egg cartons if I think about it hard enough! Even more enthralling of a memory is the first harvest of flowers a couple of months after my offspring made its way out to the garden.

While it is still too early to start marigolds or even tomatoes indoors, it is the perfect time study up on the process so that you can be successful. Sure, it involves a bit more than an egg carton and a window sill, but out of it all you'll be rewarded for your hard work with a bounty of blooms or a basket of vegetables or both. Here are a few pointers that I have gleaned from many seasons of starting seeds indoors.

The general idea is to provide a moist, warm environment for the seed to germinate and then a semi-warm, well-lit environment for the plant to grow on. Therefore, props are necessary components if you want to be successful. Previous articles have covered this part of seed-starting in depth, but I'll re-cap the highlights. Invest in some heat mats and set them at 70 degrees to provide bottom-heat. As far as light goes, the window sill won't cut it unless you are extremely diligent about turning the plants many times over the course of the day, and even then, "stretch" is likely to occur. Instead, adjust a "shop light" so that it can be raised and lowered easily. One cool fluorescent bulb and one warm are recommended but two cool work just fine in my experience. Forgo garden soil or even regular potting soil in place of a finely milled seed-starting mix. Sterilize shallow containers of choice in a 10% bleach solution before using them.

Sow teenie seeds on the surface of moist starting mix; small seed can be sown in shallow furrows. Space as best you can by folding an index card, placing the seed in the fold and tapping the card with your finger. Larger seeds can be buried a quarter of an inch apart. Cover with a humidity dome or a clear plastic bag propped up like a tent and place on bottom heat. Mist the soil of surface-sown seeds occasionally. When thoroughly dry, soak the container in a few inches of water; it will absorb moisture like a sponge. Once germination occurs, remove the dome or bag and place the seedlings within a couple of inches of the shop light off of the heat mats. Adjust lights accordingly as growth occurs. Use liquid fertilizer at one-quarter to half-strength after a couple weeks and transplant into small, individual containers or cells after true leaves form.

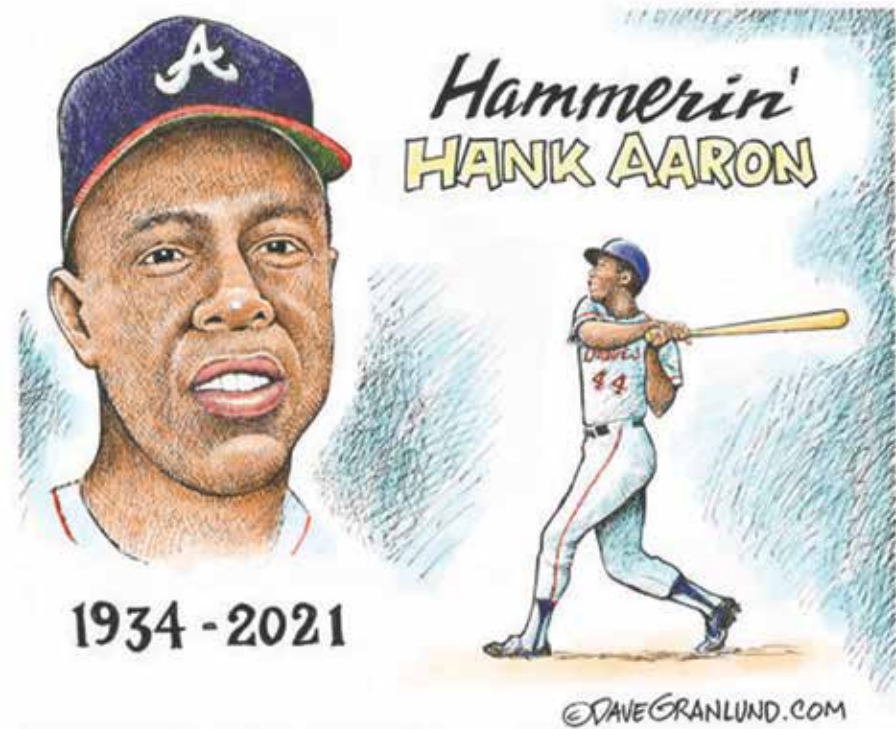
Transplanted seedlings can happily grow under the lights until it approaches the time to plant them outdoors. About a week before Memorial Day, harden off heat lovers such as tomatoes, peppers, basil or marigolds. Place in a sheltered spot and gradually work up to more exposure until finally they are outdoors all day and all night. All of this work may seem like a lot, but the benefits to starting your own seedlings are many, the first of which is the endless number of varieties for sale as seeds versus those available as plants at your local nursery.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should I wait until age 70 to claim?

RUSSELL GLOOR

Dear Rusty: I have read your answers to the commonly asked question of "When should I claim social security benefits." You always say one should wait as long as possible, up to age 70, to get the maximum monthly benefit. But I have not seen you address the matter of all the money you could have collected if you start drawing sooner and how many years it will take, if you wait, to recoup all that money.

I am now 64. I have always planned to wait until at least 66 and possibly to 70 to start collecting. I have no health issues and expect to live well into my 90s. When I tell people this, they question why I am leaving so much money on the table by waiting. At age 66 I'd get \$1,671 per month and, at 70, \$2,161. Between those two ages I could collect \$73,524. It will take me many years to recoup all that money if I wait until 70 to begin, right? When I consider this, I question why I am waiting. Please help clear up my confusion and tell me whether I am doing the right thing by waiting to claim. Signed: *Confused Senior*

Dear Confused: You are correct that I always try to make people aware of their option to get a bigger Social Security benefit by waiting longer to claim. But I also always stress that the decision to do that should consider several things - most notably, current need for the money, health, and anticipated longevity. Said another way, delaying until age 70 doesn't make much sense if you won't live long enough to at least "break even." Nevertheless, your point is very well taken - not a lot is written about benefits not taken when you wait until a later age to claim. I actually have written about that before, but I'm happy to evaluate your specific personal situation.

Using the numbers you provided, if you were to claim your \$1,671 benefit starting at your full retirement age (FRA) you would collect \$73,524 over the 44-month period to age 70, when you could get the \$2,161 benefit. So how long would it take to break even if you wait until age 70 to claim? Well, the difference between your age 70 benefit and your FRA benefit is

\$490. So, if you wait and get the higher benefit at age 70, it will take you about 12.5 years to recover that \$73,524 (\$73,524 divided by \$490 = 150 months = 12.5 years).

So, here's where longevity comes in. According to Social Security, average longevity for a man your age today is about 84, so if you meet or exceed average longevity, you'll collect more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim. And you'll be getting that higher monthly benefit amount throughout your later years, a good way to offset inflation. Indeed, that higher benefit lasts for the rest of your life, and it also means a larger survivor benefit for your wife if you predecease her. As your widow, your wife will get 100% of the amount you are receiving when you pass, if she has reached her full retirement age and if her widow's benefit is more than her own. And 100% of your age 70 benefit is quite a bit more than 100% of your earlier benefits.

I hope this helps clarify your confusion about whether to claim now, or at your FRA, or to wait even longer to age 70. Here is a link to an article I previously published on this topic: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-doing-a-break-even-analysis/. But from what you've shared with me, I don't see anything wrong with your plan to continue waiting until at least your FRA, and possibly until age 70, to claim, especially since you expect to live well into your 90s.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
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■ POLICE LOGS

Belchertown

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Jan. 13 through Jan. 19. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 270 calls police responded to, there were four incidents, two accidents, two arrest/summons and three citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Thursday Jan. 14

A 37-year-old Belchertown man charged with a and b on family/household member.

Sunday, Jan. 17

A 52-year-old homeless man was charged with a and b on family/household member.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 13

11:35 a.m. – Officers responded to a residence to conduct a wellbeing check for a juvenile who was threatening to harm themselves.

7:23 p.m. – Officers responded to a one car accident on George Hannum Rd. The vehicle was travelling west on George Hannum Rd when several deer entered the roadway. The operator was unable to stop prior to striking one of the deer. There was damage to the right side front bumper and front driver's side quarter panel and door. The operator didn't have any injuries.

Friday Jan. 15

7:23 a.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

Saturday, Jan. 16

12:42 a.m. – Officers responded to a residence after a report of a juvenile that left the residence and went missing. Officers attempted to contact the juvenile by cell phone to no avail. The K-9 officer was contacted. At 1:58 a.m., a parent called to report the child returned home.

9:20 a.m. – v1 west on rt 9 on Federal St when large tree from residence and landed on top of car. Vehicle able to park there was damage to roof frame, side and front rear. Towed from the scene no injuries.

Sunday, Jan. 17

9:32 a.m. – Officers responded to State St for a report of illegal dumping. A quantity of carpet was disposed of on the side of the road. The property owner reported they were going to take care of the matter. There are no suspects at this time.

Monday, Jan. 18

4:05 p.m. – An officer took a report from a resident who went to the station. The resident was reporting custody issues. The party was advised they could go to probate court with their concerns.

Granby

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 131 calls for the week of Jan. 15 through Jan. 21. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Saturday, Jan. 16

1:21 p.m. – Officers investigated a report of vandalism done to a business property from a motor vehicle.

Monday, Jan. 18

12:28 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on West State St and Kellogg St. No injuries were reported.

Thursday, Jan. 21

7:50 a.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on School St and East State St. Minor injuries were reported.

1:04 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Carver St. The operator lost control of the vehicle and drove off the roadway.

3:43 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on Aldrich St and Amherst St. Minor injuries were reported.

10:13 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Chicopee St. The operator drove off the roadway and struck a utility pole. No injuries were reported.

■ HEALTH & WELLNESS

Is it safe for pregnant women to get the coronavirus vaccine?

Baystate creates decision aid for doctors, pregnant women to consult

SPRINGFIELD – Is it safe for pregnant women to get the coronavirus vaccine?

That's a question that two Baystate Medical Center doctors contemplated together recently - one a primary care physician at Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center, who is also board certified in infectious diseases, and the other an OB/GYN.

Dr. Amanda Westlake learned in September that she was expecting her third child. As an infectious disease specialist, when she visited with her OB/GYN, Dr. Katie Barker of Baystate Wesson Women's Group, she was already familiar with much of the emerging literature on pregnancy and COVID-19. It is concisely stated on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website that:

"Based on what we know at this time, pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 compared to non-pregnant people. Additionally, pregnant people with COVID-19 might be at increased risk for other adverse outcomes, such as preterm birth."

But when the two doctors came together to discuss whether Dr. Westlake should get the coronavirus vaccine, the answer wasn't that simple – there is no scientific study on whether or not the vaccine is safe for pregnant women.

"Pfizer did not include pregnant women in its clinical trials to establish the safety and efficacy of their vaccine (it is common in clinical trials to exclude pregnant women). That was unfortunate because our professional organization, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has long advocated for women to be involved in vaccine trials," said Dr. Barker.

"As a result, we do not have specific data on which to make a decision about pregnant women receiving the vaccine. However, we have no reason now to suspect that it would work differently or be harmful to pregnant women, which is something I tell my patients every day," she added.

And, when studies are completed on the vaccine's effects on pregnant women now being inoculated against the virus, Dr. Barker said she would be surprised if they discover anything unexpected.

Recognizing that pregnant women everywhere would need guidance, the Shared Decision-Making: COVID Vaccination in Pregnancy working group at the University of Massachusetts Medical School – Baystate was created under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Schoenfeld, an Emergency Medicine physician at Baystate.

Dr. Schoenfeld, a shared decision-making researcher in the hospital's Institute for Healthcare Delivery and Population Science, has experience making decision aids to help patients make decisions together with their doctors. Because of the lack of evidence to guide recommendations for pregnant women, a shared decision aid was needed to help women understand the risks and benefits and the unknowns.

"Shared decision making helps patients understand their choices and come to an informed decision with their doctors about their care. It is a way for patients to have their voices heard when deciding what the next step in their medical care will be. And a decision aid is a tool to help facilitate a discussion between a doctor and patient such as, "Should I get the coronavirus vaccine," said Dr. Schoenfeld.

The clinical researcher noted that "in general the vaccine is highly recommended and safe" and although there was no hard data available on pregnancy and the

See **VACCINE**, page 8 •



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Bag the Community celebrates 10 years



(From left to right) South Hadley High School students, Courtney Cowdell, Nik Long, Sydney Smith helped at the Bag the Community event last weekend.



(From left to right) High School students Kacie Levraut, Farrell Dawson and Matt McDermott took pride in aiding the community during a food drive.



South Hadley students Jennifer Bobrowski and Victor Long partook in Bag the Community last Saturday.

PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

'Drop a bag' event collects donations safely

DALTON ZBIERSKI
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Be it rain, snow, sleet or low temperatures, the Bag the Community food drive has powered through an array of obstacles over the past decade.

The collection effort, which benefits the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry on Carew St, celebrated its 10-year mark on Jan. 16, and not even the COVID-19 pandemic could slow the pace or hinder the positivity.

"Every year, it is just so heartwarming to see the way that people come through for their neighbors. They really do care; this is such an amazing community we belong to. It's caring and giving; it's such a great place to live," said Pantry Manager Mary Lou Guarnera.

In 2011, the initial drive helped to jumpstart the pantry. Held annually over the course of a weekend in mid-January, the event took on new meaning and a new look last Saturday.

Traditionally, South Hadley High School students would leave bags in front residences throughout the town and return two days later to collect those that were filled with non-perishable food items. This year, residents were asked to drop off food items at the high school on Newton Street.

"This year it's quite different; we're not really bagging the community. I call it, 'Drop a bag.' At one point, I thought that it might not happen, but a number of people were invested in it," said Sue Brouillette, who helped establish Bag the Community in 2011. "It's exciting to see so many young



South Hadley High School Principal Elizabeth Wood, Asst. Principal Patrick Lemieux, Julia Plotniak and Maggie Rahilly all partook in the Bag the Community food drive at South Hadley High School.

people say, 'We can do this,' and I've learned that they sure can."

Led by the high school's Student Council, South Hadley students of all age levels contributed to last Saturday's collection campaign. Sydney Smith, a member of the council, complimented her peers for pushing through and accomplishing the task at hand.

"We were really concerned because over 40% of the town's food bank's annual [supply] comes from this food drive. We decided to set this up, and, honestly, the turnout has been great so I'm wondering if this is what we'll do next year," said Smith.

Throughout the day, students delivered food items to the pantry from the high school. At the pantry, State Rep. Daniel Carey of the 2nd Hampshire District pre-

sented volunteers with a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to commemorate the facility's 10th anniversary.

"It shows how much the people of South Hadley care about their neighbors and taking care of each other," said Carey. "What's most impressive is the folks running the pantry and the volunteers and folks who won't

jump to the front of the line, raise their hand and tell you how many hours they're working. They go out there to help others and do it every single day; it's so impressive."

Guarnera was nearly moved to tears by the amount of food that was donated to the pantry last Saturday. There, it will sit for several days following COVID-19 protocols; volunteers wearing masks and gloves will then sort the items, which will last the pantry many months.

During the pandemic, the pantry's demand has risen significantly. Whether it's a submitting check, donating a non-perishable food item or volunteering one's time, the pantry is always in need of assistance.

On Jan. 16, the community displayed the best that it has to offer. While every version of Bag the Community is different, Guarnera will long remember the 2021 edition and the 10-year celebration.

"There's nothing more important than people, whether they be your family or your neighbors or your friends," said Guarnera. "Everybody just needs to stick together and take care of each other. To see the way that people care; it's not just adults. It's the kids and the students in the schools, who are absolutely unbelievable."

More information regarding the pantry can be found on its Facebook page, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc."

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VACCINE • from page 7

vaccine, it wasn't as if "there was no evidence at all about the vaccine to share in an aid."

"Certainly, for many pregnant women the pros outweigh the cons," said Dr. Schoenfeld, who noted that when putting together the decision aid it was important to involve multiple stakeholders, such as maternal-fetal medicine experts, COVID experts, and pregnant healthcare workers.

The result is a 6-page decision aid on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that starts with the basics: "I'm pregnant. Should I get a COVID vaccine?" It discusses a woman's options, the benefits and risks of getting an mRNA COVID vaccine, and other information to help pregnant women make an informed decision. There are also additional details about breastfeeding, noting the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) report that there is no reason to believe that the vaccine affects the safety of breastmilk.

Since completing the aid, it has been shared via Twitter and with various national professional networks such as maternal fetal medicine doctors, obstetricians, emergency medicine doctors, and medical informatics leaders. Based on feedback from those who have received the aid, it is being used at Boston Medical Center, Kaiser Southern California, Mass General Hospital, and in multiple other practices including Texas, and all around the country.

"We have received so much positive feedback. In fact, one woman from Costa Rica asked if we had a Spanish version of the document. We were able to quickly create Spanish and Russian versions and have made them available as well," said Dr. Schoenfeld.

To view the latest version of the decision guide, visit: <https://www.baystatehealth.org/covid19/vaccine/pregnancy>

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HOCKEY



Members of the South Hadley High School hockey team protest outside Plains Elementary School. The team is seeking to have its season reinstated by the school committee.

Hockey team protests season cancellation

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Without home ice and limited options nearby, Belchertown High School ice hockey was called off for the 2020-2021 season.

South Hadley, its nearby rival, is not taking the decision of not being able to play lightly.

Following the South Hadley School Committee's decision to deny the Tigers an opportunity to play, a protest was held last Saturday morning at Plains Elementary School.

Members of the team assembled at the school to let the school district know how they felt about the decision to cancel their season.

South Hadley ice hockey, which co-ops with neighbor Granby, was prepared to begin its season during the past week before the school committee opted not to allow the sport to play. Basketball is also not being played at South Hadley.

South Hadley ice hockey has

been a perennial playoff contender during the past decade. The Tigers have also co-oped with Holyoke in the past, though that partnership recently ended.

Athletic Director Eric Castonguay said he gave a presentation to the school committee at the Jan. 4 meeting. The vote was then delayed until later in the month.

"I demonstrated to the committee how we could run a season safely," said Castonguay. "I showed them what I needed for support to ensure safe protocols were being enforced, and an emphasis for now spectators to limit the amount of exposure."

South Hadley participated in the fall season. The school successful played boys soccer, girls soccer, cross country, and field hockey. Girls volleyball was deferred to the Fall 2 season. Football for all schools was deferred to the fall season.

See HOCKEY, page 10 •

Winter sports begin

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Winter sports, however abbreviated, have begun for several schools in Western and Central Massachusetts.

While Quabbin got off to a start a bit earlier, several Western Mass. teams caught up with game action beginning last Thursday evening.

Ludlow, Amherst, Agawam, Ware, and Hampden Charter School of Science were all in action with girls and boys basketball.

Hockey also got in on the action over the weekend, though not all of the hockey teams were involved with some schools opting not to participate in the sport.

Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Minnechaug, along with Pathfinder and Palmer, were scheduled to get involved on the action earlier this week, with the game action starting to pick up and teams attempting to play 10 to 12 games during the next five or six weeks, which is what is left of the winter season.

Agawam is scheduled to be in a bubble west of the Connecticut River, including Westfield and West Springfield.

Amherst will matchup with Ludlow, among other teams, and Ware and Hampden Charter mixed up last week, and Ware is set to take on Palmer and Pathfinder in the coming weeks.

Minnechaug and Chicopee Comprehensive are set to match up next week as well. East Longmeadow will also join the mix in that bubble.

In hockey action, Ludlow and Amherst had their first games of the regular season. Ludlow, Agawam,

Minnechaug, and other Berry Division teams will be part of a league in the coming season. Most of the teams in that league play their home games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Action at Olympia Ice Center last Saturday included Ludlow and Amherst as well as East Longmeadow and Agawam. All players were observing changes in protocol by changing into uniforms and gear in parking lots. Temperatures were cold with an even colder wind chill on Saturday. Players were only allowed to put skates on once inside the arena. The small number of fans allowed to attend games were not allowed to mill around in the lobby, and the extension of benches was completed as well as a fenced-in extension.

At Olympia, if more than one player on a team was sent to the penalty box, they were sent to their team's bench to

See SPORTS, page 10 •



There is limited action in the region with some schools opting out of the winter season.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Amherst took the ice to start the regular season last week against Ludlow.

RACING

Entry forms now available for the Thompson 300

WATERBURY, Conn. — The American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have released the official entry form for the Thompson 300 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Oct. 9 and 10. More than \$100,000 in projected awards are posted for the return of the historic event as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing.

As previously announced, the 300-lap event will pay the winner a guaranteed minimum of \$20,000. Second place receives \$7,500 with \$5,000 for third. Everyone who takes the green flag will bring home at least \$1,200. Thirty-six starting posi-

tions have been posted with a total of \$85,475 in base purse money.

Lap money is also up for grabs. Every lap sold will award \$50 to the driver who leads that lap. This means up to \$15,000 in lap money and the Thompson 300 winner could pocket up to \$35,000 total.

A Last Chance "B" Feature has been posted as well. This final round qualifier will pay \$1,000 to win and \$250 to start for teams that do not transfer into the Thompson 300.

"The Thompson 300 is one of the most famous events in Modified racing," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "When

Tom Mayberry and I reached out agreement to promote events at Thompson Speedway, Tom's first idea was to bring back the Thompson 300. Together, we've put a lot of work into figuring out how to make it happen. We're already excited even with the date still nearly nine months away. It's going to be a must-see event this year and hopefully for years to come."

The entry form has been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds and www.proallstarseries.com. Teams that register by Thursday, April 15 receive an early-entry discount. The first 26 teams that register will also receive a garage stall for



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Thompson 300 will take place in October at Thompson Speedway.

World Series weekend. Qualifying for the Thompson 300 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 with the 300-lap main event on Sunday, Oct. 10. An optional practice session is planned for Friday, Oct. 8. More information will be announced

New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County. The WMBUA’s first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandem-

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

HOCKEY • from page 9

There were some minor hiccups with a few isolated COVID-19 cases in the fall, but nothing that resulted in any major shutdowns or delays in the fall season, which was also abbreviated and included between 10 and 12 contests. A limited number of fans were allowed at games during the fall due to the contests being held outdoors, though Castonguay recommended having no fans during the winter sports to ensure the ability for games to be played. Town surrounding South Hadley are not playing any winter sports, including Granby, Belchertown, and Holyoke. A school committee meeting was scheduled for Monday and some parents were expected to speak during public comment.

SPORTS • from page 9

serve out the penalty in order to have one player in the box at a time. The winter season will continue until late February and then Fall 2 is scheduled to begin with some basketball action, indoor track, girls volleyball, and football taking center stage into the first month of the spring.

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Belchertown Sentinel

ic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow’s classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings. If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available. This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 2: MONDAYS
2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.
The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

RACE • from page 9

over the coming months. All schedules are subject to change. This year’s Thompson 300 is the first time the event has been held since 2005. Previous winners include Northeast racing legends Richie Evans, Geoffrey Bodine, Ron Bouchard, Jimmy Spencer, Mike Stefanik, Steve Park, Mike McLaughlin, and Ted Christopher. The return of the Thompson 300 is the finale in the six-race Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series. The opener of the series is the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on April 10 and 11. Some of the top names in Tour-Type Modified racing have already entered the Icebreaker event, including Keith Rocco, Doug Coby, Bobby Santos III, Ron Silk, Mike Christopher Jr., and Jon McKennedy. The series also includes \$5,000-to-win events on June 16, July 7, Aug. 11, and Sept. 15. Teams that attempt to qualify for all six Outlaw Open Modified Series events will be eligible for provisional starting spots in the Thompson 300. The number of available provisionals is to be determined. The rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series have been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. Contact Greg Felton at (413) 695-2272 or gt.felton@gmail.com with any Modified tech questions. For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour. For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstars-series.com. Don’t forget to “Like” the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens. For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

SUSPENDS • from page 1

icant decision and shutting everything down,” Brougham said. “I felt that was a policy decision only the Selectboard could make.” Selectboard member Nick O’Connor said he was looking for consistency. One of the questions I’ve gotten is if the high school programs can’t access the pool, but the recreation department can,” O’Connor said. “I understand the distinction, it’s an admin decision by the school. This would be a different decision not tied to the schools.” He said to clarify the deciding authority for use of the pool for town programing was in the selectboard’s purview. “We need to be clear is that a lot of people think the Board of Health instructed the school to stop their programs and that was not the case,” he said. “We need to be clear on if we’re opening and shutting things, who’s the authority one way or another. If we’re making the cases of closing school’s sports program that’s school’s decision.” Thibeault told the board the Amherst High School reached out to rent the pool. “Obviously if we’re in the red and the decision was not to have them come

BOS • from page 1

now defaulting to the selectboard to make a policy decision,” Barry said. “Then let’s make that decision based on the information we have. This is not a health decision if we’re involved in it, it’s a policy decision. I have no qualms with making a policy decision.” Board of Health Chair Leeanne Connolly said “she to wasn’t qualified make a recommendation” to the board. She later added that board didn’t have the opportunity to meet about the matter, causing it to come before the selectboard. “The Board of Health has not had a chance to have a meeting to discuss this. It’s a Board of Health matter,” she said. “Right now, we’re in the middle of a disaster. We’re in the red, we’re trying to help save lives.” On Monday, Jan. 26, Selectboard member Nick O’Connor said he believed there was an issue with consistency because the Selectboard and School Committee made decisions that didn’t align with one another, causing confusion. “We are two fractured groups trying to be consistent; neither have the power they need to enact consistent responses in the community,” O’Connor said. He said he took issue with “communication and policy at the elected official level.” “The Board of Health should be taking information around metrics and making

HISTORIC SITE • from page 1

Belchertown community to continue the farm’s education programming and sustainable farming efforts.” Sen. Eric Lesser said there is great value to the property. “The Lampson Brook Farm has served as a valuable farm education site, teaching young farmers about sustainable farming. The Lampson Brook Farm is truly a Belchertown treasure and with this law, this property will remain available under permanent protection for present and future generations,” said Senator Eric Lesser. “Thank you to the town of Belchertown, Representative Petrolati, and the many other groups that have been part of the planning coalition. I am excited to see how the continued protection and operation of this farm will complement the ongoing redevelopment of the adjacent Belchertown State School site.” “The Belchertown Selectboard is very pleased about the passage of this legislation; we extend our thanks to our partners in the state legislature, Rep. Petrolati

in, understandable,” he said. “We didn’t know where we were at while being in the red, what we were allowed to do with outside communities coming in and using our facilities.” The pool was used by the department, which was running lap swims and hosting a U.S. swim team. There were also a couple of applications for use of the Common. Connolly said she was not qualified to make a recommendation but wanted to hear from the health department. Health Director Judy Metcalf was not present for the meeting. “She has all of the information and the science we need. However, Stephen Bell has been handling this situation with the pool, and I was wondering if he would speak now to this,” Connolly said. Bell said after speaking with Metcalf, they agreed there should be a suspension in using the pool. “Suspending it for some period of time starting as soon as possible and reevaluating it in a couple weeks,” he said. He added that events on the common, while run well in the past, pose a great risk to people. “At this point, because the risk is higher, we want to keep gathering sizes lower,” he said.

decisions based on that, and those should get communicated out,” he said. He also expressed concerns about the frequency of the Board of Health meetings, which occur once a month, typically on a Monday evening at the same time as the Selectboard meets. On Thursday, Jan. 21, Quabbin Health Director Judy Metcalf said the Selectboard has purview over the facilities, specifically the Common and the Recreation Department. “The Selectboard controls the events on the common, the common is a town facility that is not under the control of the School Department, therefore it is under the control of the Selectboard,” she said. “At the time we thought the quickest way to deal with this is through the people who approve the use of the town common for events.” She added that the Board of Health doesn’t control the staff in the recreation department. “We thought it would be easier to address through the chain of command, with the Selectboard since they control the common, they control the facilities that aren’t the school facilities and they, along with the town administrator, have administrative oversight of the department,” Metcalf said. “In reality I think if we all thought about it, maybe there would be a different way to do it, but at the time, that seemed like the most direct way to get something to happen.”

and Sen. Lesser, who worked hard to see it through to becoming law,” said Gail Gramarossa, Selectboard chair. “Lampson Brook Farm is a beautiful local gem and part of our town’s farming history, its present and its future.” Belchertown Town Administrator Gary Brougham said the act helps to continue the rural charcter of the town. “Permanently Protecting this unique 460-acre piece of agricultural land within a half-mile of Belchertown’s Historic Town Center not only allows continued access to valuable farm and forest land for future generations, but it also maintains the rural character of our town and a Historic View Corridor treasured by many residents,” Brougham said. “Preserving and protecting green space in our Commonwealth is vital,” said Rep. Whipps. “Protected land, including this historic property, contributes to the health and well-being of our residents. I was happy to work with Senator Lesser and Representative Petrolati on this important bill.”

Local Newspapers are

IMPORTANT

Any Way You Look At It

College NOTES

McKenna Talbot of Belchertown named to the Fall 2020 semester President’s List at Dean College

FRANKLIN – Dean College is pleased to announce that McKenna Talbot of Belchertown, has earned a place on the President’s List for the fall 2020 semester. Students named to the President’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located

in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Lasell students named to Fall 2020 Dean’s List

NEWTON – Lasell University students were recently named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Mitchell Bolton of Belchertown
Julie Pirog of Belchertown
Jenna Robinson of Belchertown
Jaydon Perez of Amherst

Kayla Deecher of Granby named to Springfield College Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has named Kayla Deecher from Granby to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester.

Deecher has a primary major of Sport Management.

The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must

have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

Nina Hayes named to College of Charleston President’s List

CHARLESTON, SC – Nina Hayes of Amherst, was named to the College of Charleston Fall 2020 President’s List. Hayes is majoring in Finance .

To qualify for President’s List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

To qualify for Dean’s List (Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.600 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina, the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation’s top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. Its beautiful and historic campus, combined with contemporary facilities, cutting-edge programs and accessible faculty attracts students from across the U.S. and around the world.

Girl Scout cookie season fueled by entrepreneurial spirit

STAFF REPORT

REGION – Local Girl Scouts will put to use new sales strategies and technology skills honed during a global pandemic as Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts kicks off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season. The cookie season like no other kicked off on Friday, Jan. 15, in central and western Mass.

Girl Scouts are selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during a challenging time. Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods through the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program—including taking contact-free pickup and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grubhub. Additionally, Girl Scouts of the USA is making online cookie ordering available nationwide on Febr. 1 so consumers who don’t know a Girl Scout can still purchase cookies from a local troop for direct shipment to their homes or donation to local organizations.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the digital cookie platform online, which GSUSA launched in 2014.

The proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop and Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts to power Girl Scouts’ essential leadership programming.

Here are the ways local Girl Scouts will be selling cookies this year:

- Online: Girl Scouts will be selling cookies online through digital cookie and social media (with parental supervision) to promote their virtual cookie business to friends and family. Whether its emails, door hangers, or virtual cookie booths, customers will have contactless purchase and delivery options as well as the option to donate cookies to GSCWM’s Project Care & Share (cookies for our service men and women).
- Cookie Booths: Drive-through cookie booths; “lemonade stand style” neighborhood booths; and traditional storefront cookies booths at local establishments including GNC. Girls are exploring new and innovative ways to sell cookies directly to the public while also making sure to follow COVID-19 safety protocols based on Governor Baker and local health board restrictions).
- Grubhub and GSUSA National Online Cookie program: New this year, customers can support their local Girl Scouts by purchasing through Grubhub in select areas (Holyoke, Lee and Worcester). Customers who don’t know a Girl Scout will still be able to order from a local Girl Scout through GSUSA’s National Online program. Both methods offer contactless online purchase and delivery.

To find cookies go to: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/all-about-cookies/support-girls-success.html>

Upcoming events at the Granby library

GRANBY – The following are upcoming events at the Granby Public Library.

Make and take bags at the Granby Library and CFCE Zoom Playgroup

People are invited to join the playgroup on Zoom, stop by for a make and take to go with it, or just pick up a make and take bag.

Each week, join Marti, the playgroup facilitator from 10 to 11 a.m., for sensory play, stories, songs and take and make crafts from the library.

Below are the playgroup dates. The take and make bags will be available at the library Tuesday through Friday of the week prior in library lobby 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For the Zoom link, email Marti at mweichman@collaborative.org.

Zoom playgroup dates and make and take bag and story theme

- **February 2: Valentine’s Day.** Tell

someone how special they are when you make your own valentines with supplies the library provides. A friendship story today! (Pick up make and take bag through Jan. 29.)

- **February 9: Chinese New Year.** To celebrate make a paper lantern, a magical dragon and hear a story about Chinese New Year. (Pick up make and take bag Feb. 2 to 5.)
- **Feb. 16: No playgroup.**
- **February 23: Post Office.** Create a mailperson’s carrier and some letters “to mail.” What’s it like to deliver the mail? The group will read about it! (Pick up make and take bag Feb. 16 to 19.)
- **March 2: Look out your window.** Assemble and decorate window to peek through. Hear a story about what’s outside our windows. (Pick up make and take bag Feb. 23 to 26.)

Ready for a close up

PHOTO BY JIM KNITTEL

This Pileated Woodpecker has been visiting Belchertown resident, Jim Knittel’s suet feeder on Barton Ave over the last month. Knittel recently got a photo of the frequent flyer.



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CLUES ACROSS
1. Gather a harvest
5. Federal Republic of Germany
8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
11. “The Little Mermaid”
13. The common gibbon
14. Volcanic island in Fiji
15. Mother of Perseus
16. Egg cells
17. Teams’ best pitchers
18. Credit associations
20. Advance
21. Hair styling products
22. Benign tumors
25. Arriving early
30. Called it a career
31. ___ Paulo, city
32. Avoid with trickery
33. Easter egg
38. Veterans battleground
41. Lack of success
43. Thing that causes disgust
45. Deep, continuing

CLUES DOWN
1. Cool!
2. Amounts of time
3. Aboriginal people of Japan
4. Popular veggies
5. Wedding accessory
6. Deep, narrow gorges
7. Dry cereal
8. Competitions that require speed
9. Cain and ___
10. Snake sound
12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
14. Pattern of notes in Indian music
19. Satisfy
23. Misfire
24. Nearsightedness
25. Indicates before
26. Increase motor speed
27. When you hope to get there
28. Indicates position
29. Where rockers perform
34. Substitute
35. ___ juris: of one’s own right
36. Earliest form of

modern human in Europe: ___-magnon
37. Adult female bird
39. Do away with
40. Lens
41. Flattened appendage
42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
47. Sew
48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish-white
53. A way to illustrate
54. College basketball superpower
58. Midway between south and southeast

UMass Fine Arts Center announces virtual spring season

AMHERST – This spring the UMass Fine Arts Center takes full advantage of the virtual world to engage and inspire audiences with over 40 online events featuring renowned artists like visual artist Alison Saar and the South African choral icons Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Audiences can witness musicians from around the world perform in the newest configuration of the Silkroad Ensemble and enjoy the return of audience favorites like cellist Matt Haimovitz. “This moment to pivot enabled us to expand our reach, allowing us to bring the wonders of the arts to more communities in our richly diverse region,” said Director Jamilla Deria. In keeping with tradition, the first event of the semester is the annual Fine Arts Center Galahosted via Zoom on Feb. 6, and sponsored by Greenfield/Northampton Cooperative Bank. With the theme of “Relive-Renew-Reimagine,” the virtual version of this beloved and historically sold-out event celebrates and supports the Arts/Access outreach programs of the Fine Arts Center.

The presentation includes a trivia contest and prizes sponsored by Florence Bank and a “mini” silent auction featuring work by Tom Friedman and Laura Radwell. The evening concludes with a virtual dance party to an original set by FEVER, thanks to Finck & Perras Insurance. Registration is required and while the event is free, guest are asked

to make a donation at whichever level they are comfortable. The performing arts season kicks off with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Feb. 17. The concert recorded in South Africa features the chorus performing the songs of unity and love that have made them globally renowned.

On April 25 as part of the UMass Bach Festival, renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz presents a virtual presentation of his “Bach Listening-Room” repertoire focused on Bach’s solo cello suites. To close out the season on April 29, members of the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble present highlights from their more than 20-year trajectory recorded from all over the planet. For families, the Fine Arts Center welcomes the virtual tour premiere of Manual Cinema’s “Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively,” on April 11. Inspired by the beloved books by Mo Willems, the piece is realized through Manual Cinema’s critically acclaimed use of projection, shadow puppetry, and immersive sound to create a live cinematic experience. The Bodies at Risk series, featuring BIPOC artists in creative dialogue about the racialized body and social justice, continues from the fall. In conjunction with UMass Dance and Five College Dance Department’s virtual conference, “Beyond the Proscenium,” hip-hop based

choreographers Rennie Harris and Jon Boogz talk on March 13, followed by a conversation between indigenous dance artist and company director, Emily Johnson, and choreographer and disability rights activist, Alice Sheppard, on March 18. The Reimagine Artist Residency series introduced last fall continues to feature groundbreaking artists as they redefine what it means to be socially engaged artists. Performance artist Kristina Wong returns on March 1 to present her virtual piece born from the COVID-19 pandemic, “Sweatshop Overlord.” Inspired by her experience forming “Auntie’s Sewing Squad,” the work grew into a now national grass roots effort to provide masks and more to communities in need. Multimedia artist Miwa Matreyek will be in residence focused around her climate-based work, “Infinitely Yours,” leading workshops and participating in a climate crisis panel in collaboration with the UMass School for Earth & Sustainability and the MFA for Poets and Writers. Additional programming includes Japanologist Alex Kerr discussing his book “Lost Japan”; jazz performances by the Fay Victor Chamber Trio and Zaccari Curtis Afro-Cuban Quartet; and a Valley Jazz Network performance and conversation event focused on jazz and gender featuring Grammy-award winning drummer Teri Lyne Carrington. The University Museum of

Contemporary Art has three virtual exhibitions this spring. Of special note is “Mirror Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar” from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation.

For the exhibition “We Are For Freedoms,” the Museum commissioned a series of posters from local and regional artists, asking them to visually respond to their interpretation of freedom.

The third exhibition, “Artifacts at the End of a Decade,” the Museum’s annual Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition, was originally scheduled to debut in March 2020, and features a portfolio of work that has not been on view in its entirety since 1989. Each exhibition will be on view online February through April and features live virtual events with the artists and curators involved in each. Augusta Savage Gallery continues with its 50th anniversary theme, “Healing Bodies,” presenting exhibitions by women from Northampton’s Anchor House of Artists, New Mexico-based artist Carolyn Mae Lassiter, and a posthumous celebration of the work of Brettney Young. Each virtual exhibition launches with an opening reception on Zoom. Additionally, the Gallery hosts artist JuPong Lin’s installation, “Poetics of Repair – Being Earth, Being Water,” a participatory installation of poetry and paper cranes and canoes, “conducting a medicine of de-colonial

love to mend our ravaged world.” Hampden Gallery launches Feb. 1 with a group exhibition “CURRENT UNDERCURRENT” curated by Linda Griggs and M. Charlene Stevens, a visual conversation relating to current events such as COVID-19, gender, racial justice and climate change, featuring over 30 artists. Hampden’s spring schedule also features solo exhibitions by artists Bruce Ackerson and Alicia Renadette. Fine Arts Center venues including the box office, Augusta Savage Gallery, Hampden Gallery and the University Museum of Contemporary Art, remain closed to the public until further notice. Full program details are available at fineartscenter.com. Some events have a nominal access fee per household or device; many are free. For more questions, the box office can be reached by email at facbox@umass.edu and by phone at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., hours subject to change. The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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OBITUARIES

Mary O'Donnell

BELCHERTOWN—Mary Agnes (Cauley) O'Donnell, passed away on Jan. 17 while residing at Quabbin Valley Healthcare in Athol.

Mary was born in Holyoke on Nov. 3, 1934. She attended Holyoke schools and, as she loved to tell her grandchildren, she never missed a day of school in 12 years. Mary was the daughter of the late Anthony and Mary (McGinty) Cauley. She attended nursing school until her marriage to her husband, Bill, and they raised their four children in South Hadley. She later became employed at Mount Holyoke College where she worked in the housekeeping department for over 25 years. Upon the death of her husband, she relocated to Belchertown.

After retiring, Mary went back to work part time as "Grandma Mary" at Cold Spring School in Belchertown as a classroom helper. Mary enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and, when possible, she loved to travel to Cape Cod. Her extensive knowledge on a wide range of



topics inspired her love of trivia games and she rarely missed an episode of Jeopardy.

Mary was an excellent card player and enjoyed many games with her friends at Everett Acres in Belchertown.

In addition to her parents, Mary was predeceased by her husband, William R. O'Donnell and her sister, Barbara Moriarty. She leaves her children Patrick and his wife Kathleen O'Donnell of South Hadley, James and his wife, Donna O'Donnell of Granby, Ann and her husband Peter Kuchieski of Belchertown, and Charles and his wife, Christine O'Donnell of Lake Mary, Florida. She also leaves five grandchildren, Christopher, Scott, Kelli, Dylan and Jesse; three great grandchildren, Zachary, Ronan and Pierce. Services for Mary were held Friday, Jan. 22.

Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home entrusted with Mary's care and arrangements. For more information or to leave a memory, please visit www.beersandstory.com

Lawrence Ruhf

BUCKLAND – Lawrence Lindstrom Ruhf, 73, of Buckland, died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 10, 2021.

He is survived by his children Adam Ruhf, Zoe Ruhf, and Daniella Ruhf, his twin brother Peter Ruhf, sister Robin Ruhf, sister-in-law Hilton Caston, niece Fawni Ruhf, ex-wife Kathryn Ruhf, nieces Adrienne Isaac and Anna Hunt, ex-wife Kristina Johansson, and his two granddaughters Via Rogers and Sylvia Powell, who were the lights of his life.

Born March 28, 1947 in Allentown PA, Larry was raised in a warm and eccentric family. He was a standout baseball player in his youth, and went on to coach his children and countless others while residing in Belchertown and Buckland.

Larry graduated from the University of Michigan in 1969 with a degree in psychology, and received his Doctorate of Education from the University of Massachusetts in 1977. He was an innovator in the field of psychology, co-authoring a book on drug crisis and helping to develop family and network therapy as a psychotherapist at the Mt. Tom Institute in



Holyoke in the 1980s, followed by several years at ServiceNet in Northampton. He was a beloved adjunct professor of counseling psychology at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH for over twenty years, where he trained many therapists currently practicing in New England and beyond.

Larry is considered a pioneer and founding father in the sport of competitive boomer-ang throwing. He competed on the first USA Team against Australia in 1981. He organized the first-ever International Team Cup in 1987, and was a national champion and world record holder. Later in life Larry became an accomplished painter, sculptor and musician. His many brilliant artworks will keep his spirit alive in the homes of his friends and family around the globe. Larry will be remembered by his wide community as an inquisitive, encouraging and loving person who genuinely cared about other people and made a positive impact on many who knew him.

There will be a Zoom ceremony to honor his memory on Jan. 30, 2021 followed by an in-person memorial service to take place this summer, pandemic pending.

Westover Airman death at joint base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hi

STAFF REPORT

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Mass. – A U.S. Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base has died at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii due to natural causes.

Col. Craig C. Peters, 439th Airlift Wing commander, confirmed the death of Master Sgt. Scott W. Blais on Jan. 17. Blais was assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron as a flight engineer, and was on a regularly scheduled training mission at the time of his death.

"Scott was an invaluable member of the Patriot Wing for more than 16 years and his sudden loss is heartfelt across the wing as he and his family remain in our thoughts

and prayers," Peters said. "All efforts are now focused on providing critical support to Scott's family as they go through this difficult time. I'm extremely proud of our leadership and support teams who immediately sprang into action to not only support Scott's family, but to also assist fellow Airmen and friends."

Blais was 48 years old and lived in East Longmeadow. He was married and had two children. He had been assigned to Westover ARB since August 2004.

Further details on funeral arrangements will be provided when they become available.

For more information, please contact Westover Air Reserve Base Public Affairs at 439AW.PA@us.af.mil or 413-557-2020.

Sally Schnugger

BELCHERTOWN—Sally A. (Burke) Schnugger, 85, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family in Baystate Medical Center on Jan. 22.

Daughter of the late Robert and Emma (Escott) Burke, she was born in Holyoke on Jan. 21, 1936. After graduating from Holyoke High School, she went on to obtain her nursing degree at Holyoke Hospital and worked for many years as an RN in the Holyoke Hospital Emergency Department. Sally was an Air Force wife and a devoted mother and grandmother.

She was a Girls Scout leader and a volunteer nurse for the South Hadley High School band. Sally was also an avid quilter/sewer, gardener and photographer. Her quilts will be passed on and forever cherished by her family. Throughout her life, she was an active member of First Baptist Church of Holyoke, College Church of Northampton and Christ Community Church of Belchertown. She enjoyed volunteering in any capacity whether it be ushering or with Operation Christmas Child. Sally will be remembered for her generosity, her smile and her love for her family.

Sally will be missed by all who knew her, including her loving husband of 64 years, George W. Schnugger; her three daughters, Susan and husband Douglas Miller, Nancy and husband Henry Schnugger-Kwiatkowski, and Carol and husband Robert Barszcz; her five grandchildren Joshua and wife Julie, Daniel and wife Gabrielle, Benjamin, Robert Jr., and Lynn; and her great-grandchild Zoe. Sally also leaves her brother Robert and wife Andrea Burke; her sister-in-law Kathy Burke; her brother-in-law Richard Barnaby; along with extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, Sally was predeceased by her sister Janet Barnaby. Services for Sally will be private and at the convenience of the family. A Celebration of Life will be held when gathering restrictions are lifted.

Memorial donations may be made to the food pantry at Christ Community Church in Belchertown, MA 01007. Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral entrusted with Sally's arrangements.

For more information or to leave a memory, please visit www.beersandstory.com



William Willette



SURPRISE, AZ – William G. Willette, 85, passed away at home peacefully with his family by his side on Dec. 21, 2020. William has lived in Surprise, AZ for the past three years and previously resided in Belchertown and Chicopee.



William enjoyed spending time with his grandsons, family and friends. He was a proud veteran who served in the Air Force for 12 years and then carried out a career in management of manufacturing, retiring in 2005. William was predeceased by his wife of 45 years Esther G. Willette. He is survived by his two daughters Debbie Tellier and husband Ken and Diane Overgaard and husband Jason, four grandchildren Jeffrey, Stephen, Brandon, Kyle and his great grandson Cristian. Services will be private.

Donations may be made in his memory to The Savior Foundation Inc., 4530 E Shea Blvd #160, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

WORKSHOP • from page 5

been furloughed or laid-off as well.

"The pandemic has left millions out of the workforce, and I hope this virtual career coaching session can help as many as possible get back on their feet," said Denise Kaigler. "Many interviewers make their decision about a candidate within the first 15 minutes of meeting them. That makes it critical for candidates to make an immediate impact and an unforgettable first impression so they are able to separate themselves from the pack of others vying for the same position."

Kaigler's company, MDK Brand Management, also created a free guide called "How to get your personal and business brands post-pandemic ready." The document includes tips on how to navigate the current pandemic storm and prepare for the professional and business opportunities that are expected to increase after the pandemic. The free guide is available for download at: <https://bit.ly/getpostpandemicREADY>.

To learn more and register for the upcoming virtual workshop, go to <https://impactandimpressooverview.pages.ontraport.net/>

Death Notice

William G. Willette
Died Dec. 21, 2020
Services are private

Lawrence Lindstrom Ruhf
Died: Jan. 10, 2021
Memorial Service to be held at later date.

Mary Agnes (Cauley) O'Donnell
Died: Jan. 17, 2021

Sally A. Burke Schnugger
Died: Jan. 22, 2021
Services are private

The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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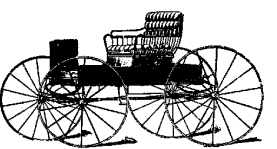
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500
Docket No. HS18P0498EA
Estate of: Linda Parker Smith
Also known as: Linda J. Smith, Linda J. Parker
Date of Death: 06/14/2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **George A. Smith, Jr.** of Belchertown, MA and **Suzanne L. Parker** of Amherst, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, First and Final Account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/17/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objec-

tions within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Linda S Fiddick**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 20, 2021
Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
01/28/2021

BID #2021-02 – SALE OF TOWN OWNED SURPLUS VEHICLES
The Town of Belchertown will receive sealed bids labeled "SALE OF TOWN OWNED SURPLUS VEHICLES" at the Office of the Board of Selectmen, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007, **until 2:30 p.m. on February 19, 2021.** At that time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid forms and additional information on the listed vehicles can be obtained by calling the Office of the Belchertown Board of Selectmen at (413) 323-0403. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and labeled "Bid #2021-02".

- 1 – 2000 Chevrolet Express Cargo Van (w/ approx. 70,748 miles)
- 1 – 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe (w/ approx. 112,860 miles)
- 1 – 2003 Chevrolet Silverado Pickup Truck (w/ approx. 62,707 miles)

The successful bidder(s) must pay in full within ten (10) days by check, at which time the vehicles will become the possession of the

successful bidder. The Board of Selectmen reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to award the bid in the best interest of the Town of Belchertown. Vehicles are offered in "As Is, Salvage or Parts Only" Condition.

Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator
Town of Belchertown
01/21, 01/28/2021

Public Hearing Legal Notice Belchertown
Zoning Board of Appeals
In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 11 the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

This hearing will be held remotely. Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/986366629>
You can also dial in using your phone.
(For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)
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Application from Jean Guy Girard applying for a Special Permit \$145-69; \$145-

11 Schedule of Use, to construct a two-family house: 145 Attachment 1:1 (2) on North Main Street Map 238 Parcel 156 zoned VR

A copy of the application can be viewed at Belchertown.org website

Any Person interested and wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Mark Hebert, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
01/28, 02/04/2021

Notice of Planning Board Hearing Relative to Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments Pursuant to MGL c.40A, §5
In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a remote public hearing to discuss proposed Amendments to the Towns zoning bylaw Article X-Common Drive Development bylaw.

A public hearing will be held as follows:
Place: Remotely by Planning Board, Belchertown
Date: February 23, 2021
Time: 7:05 PM
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/571586205>
You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Access Code: 571 -586-205

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/571586205>

The subject matter of the proposed amendments is as indicated below.

To revise ARTICLE X-**\$145-42 through \$145-50.**

The proposal is available for inspection on the Belchertown.org- Planning Board website and at mass-publicnotices.org

James Natle
Chairman, Planning Board
01/21, 01/28/2021



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

AMHERST

Railroad show will chug along virtually this year

JONAH SNOWDEN
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Regular visitors of the annual Amherst Railway Show are in luck. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual show is still scheduled to take place and can be viewed from the comfort and safety of home.

David Royce, treasurer of the Amherst Railway Society, said traditionally, during the last weekend of January, the annual show gets about 20,000 visitors to the Eastern States Exposition – aka “the Big E” – train show.

In addition to the exhibits, all regular in-person meetings have been replaced by virtual show and tell programs and other events to abide by the COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines.

On the weekend of the show, Jan. 30 to 31, anyone interested can visit amherstrail.org, where there will be vendors and manufacturers, such as Rapido Trains Inc. showcasing new products. Navigating to individual sites from there will be rewarding for those looking to invest in their rail-oriented pastime.

“They’ll be giving great dis-



COURTESY PHOTO

The COVID-19 pandemic will not derail the annual Amherst Railway Society show at the Big E.

counts to people who want to go back to their website,” said Royce.

“Right now, we have 75 different vendors that have signed up.”

What Royce said he is looking forward to with this upcoming show is that it will serve to promote model railroads, assist the vendors and manufacturers, as well as people who are excited

and looking forward to seeing what’s new and available.

Royce also wants anyone interested in attending the show for both days to know that it’s free to attend.

“We are a nonprofit corporation,” said Royce. “We’re not opposed to donations, but it is free.”

On Jan. 30, the virtual show

will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second day. For more information, visit the railways society’s website or their Facebook page.

Anyone who is interested in potentially becoming a member of the railway society are welcome.

Belchertown children’s meals program menu

Monday – *Breakfast:* banana bread and 100% juice. *Lunch:* pasta and meatballs, marinara sauce and green beans.

Tuesday (Small Meal Kits come home): *Breakfast:* apple frudel and fruit. *Lunch:* oriole chicken bowl (chicken with mashed potatoes, corn and gravy) and a dinner roll.

Wednesday – Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m.

Remote learning day, no in school meals.

Thursday: *Breakfast:* mini-waffles and fruit. *Lunch:* New England chicken salad scoop, goldfish and pickles.

Friday – Small meal kits come home and orders due today for week four. *Breakfast:* cereal bar, yogurt and 100% fruit juice. *Lunch:* cheese pizza, Caesar salad and a school baked cookie.

Note: Pre-k and Kindergarten will offer a daily in-school alternative choice: Muffin, yogurt, vegetable, fruit, and milk

Grades 1 through 6 will offer a daily in-school alternate choice: Sunbutter and Jelly sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk

Grades 7 to 12 will offer daily in-school alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar and pre-made salads



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